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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 1.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through more than 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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#### Rise of the Sons

Thank you for using our son Mark's picture on the cover of the August magazine. That is a very nice honor.

Fred & Sandy Bauer, Cissna Park, Ill.

#### **Broken Promises**

After reading this article by Ken Olsen (August), I was heartbroken for these men. I cannot understand why people like Mario Marquez or Mauricio Hernandez Mata, after serving so many years protecting this country, have to go through this ordeal. Get with it, Washington.

Wayne Coleman, Jefferson City, Mo.

#### **Renaming Army bases**

I take a hard exception to the article "Panel recommends new names for nine Army bases" (Rapid Fire, August). This is no different than tearing down our historical statues or removing plaques and flags from our public buildings. That is what Iraq, China and Russia do, not America. But no, some "woke" progressive has declared we must change the names, knowing this will in time result in lost connections to our past. We should be embracing our history, not destroying or renaming it.

I couldn't be more disappointed in the direction America is heading. You don't change history to fit today's narrative; you utilize history to create today's narrative. Push against quiet insurrections like this, and we just may have a chance to leave a proud heritage to those who follow.

Kenn Roberts, Salmon, Idaho



Veterans Strengthening America

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P.O. Box 1954 Indianapolis, IN 46206

#### magazine@legion.org

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The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Canada Post International Publications Mall (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office dated Dec. 22, 1991.



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After renaming these bases, the government will have spent hundreds of millions of dollars for what purpose? Hardly anyone knows they're named for Confederate officers. Our adversaries are laughing at us!

Mike Dowdy, Spring, Texas

#### The Battle to End GI Bill Abuse

Precipitous closure of for-profit schools is definitely a problem (August). What this article neglects to explain is that in almost all, if not all, cases, the sudden closure of a school is caused entirely by the Department of Education.

I worked as a consultant for proprietary schools for nearly 30 years. Time after time, the DoE cut off their Pell Grant and Stafford Loan funding by putting the schools on reimbursement funding, or as they call it now, Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2). How many businesses can survive having most of their cash flow cut off for at least 30 days? And don't think for-profit schools are the only ones that benefit from all kinds of federal student aid.

I have seen DoE put schools on HCM2 repeatedly for the flimsiest of reasons. Nearly always, it is done to for-profit schools, which have the nerve to charge \$15,000 a year for tuition while alleged non-profit colleges charge \$45,000.

Oh, but these horrible for-profit schools sometimes have graduation rates lower than 50%! But what about state-supported community colleges? Their two-year graduation rate is 13%. In three years, which you'd think is enough to finish a two-year program, the rate is 22%. These numbers are from the National Center for Education Statistics.

The Legion might look at interviewing a few people who are not totally biased against profit, and in the tank for state-supported schools, for its next article.

Glenn Bogart, Homewood, Ala.

#### Promote membership among Guard, reserves

I read then-National Commander Paul E. Dillard's message (July) with great interest. I totally agree regarding membership growth via young families. Don't forget our 800,000 members of the National Guard and reserves. Many have achieved veteran status, and to actively target them for membership should be a Legion priority.

Trenton N. Twedt, Radcliffe, Iowa

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Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

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## " ... I wear my (Legion) cap everywhere."

**Patricia Liddell,** the Legion's 2022 National Recruiter of the Year and top Gold Brigade recruiter, who signed up 346 new members

A member of **Eddie L. Roberts Post 333 in Columbus, Ga.,** Liddell wears her American Legion cap to church, airports, graduation ceremonies at Fort Benning and other places because "veterans are out there, and they want to be a part of us. But they are not going to be a part of something they don't know about." The cap starts conversations that often end in memberships, she says.

In 2016, Liddell was the first woman to receive the Legion's National Recruiter of the Year award since it was established in 1987.

American Legion posts that now offer Project ATLAS telehealth



Photo by Melissa Lyttle

clinical pods for rural veterans to have online VA appointments with their health-care providers, following the July 6 opening of a site at Post 5 in Emporia, Kan.

## Camp Lejeune MCAS New River

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Brad Bradshaw MD JD LC is a law firm. Dr. Brad Bradshaw is not licensed in North Carolina and works/assists on Camp Lejeune water cases with staff attorney Chris Johnson (who is the only firm lawyer licensed in North Carolina). On Camp Lejeune cases we may work with additional North Carolina attorneys, such as local counsel, and/or via pro hac vice, plus the Onder Law Firm who are members of the team that obtained some of the multi-million dollar verdicts in the J& tack cases, but are not livened in North Carolina. Brad Bradshaw MD JD LC, North Carolina office: 3807 Wrightsville Ave, Suite 20 Wilmington, NC 28403. USA flagship office: 201 W. 474 St. Kansas sict, MO 64112. Additional offices in Seattle, Springfield, MO, and St. Louis. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. All offices are by appointment only. We work with and refer cases to other lawyers. Dr. Brad Bradshaw is licensed to practice law in Washington, Hawaii, and is applying for licensure in North Carolina. Dr., Bradshaw is licensed to practice medicine in Missouri and Hawaii. See Bradshawis Common for more information. Client may be responsible for costs or expenses. Past results for those of future results and every



#### Florida post returns lost items to Medal of Honor recipient's family

A Florida man attending a storage unit auction discovered a box of items belonging to the late Army Master Sqt. James Hendrix, who received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in 1945 for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge.



James Hendrix Army photo

The auction-goer turned to American Legion Post 69 in Avon Park, Fla., for help.

Within two days, Post Historian Renee Rescigno found one of Hendrix's granddaughters through Facebook. And on July 16, the items were presented to Hendrix's sister and three of his daughters during a ceremony at Post 69.

"I don't think there was a dry eye in the group," which included Department of Florida Commander Eunice Butts and Department Auxiliary President Jane Hardacre, Rescigno said.

Besides photos, the box also contained news clippings detailing Hendrix's actions on Dec. 26, 1944. One reported that Hendrix "knocked out a German 99, two machine gun nests, captured 13 German prisoners, and rescued one soldier from a burning half-track and two from a blazing tank while under heavy machine gun fire."

Hendrix served as a paratrooper during the Korean War before retiring from the Army in 1966. He died in Davenport, Fla., in 2002, at 77.

The photos and clippings were displayed on a table at Post 69 for family members and others to see. "It brought tears to my eyes," Hendrix's sister, Zora Gibson, told The News-Leader. "I miss him."

Read more: legion.org/honor

#### THE PLAYLIST

American Legion videos you don't want to miss.



**American Legion Baseball World Series** Catch the hits, highlights and emotions of the 95th American Legion Baseball World Series on **legion.org**, YouTube and Instagram.

#### Legacy Run '22

American Legion Family members from across the country gather in Alabama to begin the long journey north to Milwaukee and the 103rd National Convention in the 17th Legacy Run, held to benefit students with a military parent who was killed on duty or became at least 50% disabled in service since 9/11.

Legion Family service project in Milwaukee National convention attendees roll up their sleeves and spruce up the historic Milwaukee County War Memorial Center.

Visit legion.org/magazine/videos or subscribe to The American Legion's YouTube channel to see, show and share other Legion videos. Also, follow The American Legion on Instagram for bonus reels from summer events.

**92** Veterans who attended a July 4 "Escape the Fireworks" event at **American Legion** Post 155 in Crystal River, Fla., nearly



double the number expected. The event was an opportunity for veterans affected by PTSD to avoid the noise of exploding fireworks.

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#### Whereas ...

The Department of Veterans
Affairs (VA) has a current
procedure in place called "an
Intent to File" which allows
veterans and other claimants to
contact VA either by phone, online,
or by a prescribed form (21-0966) ...

Once this is received by VA, the date received becomes the date of claim for either an increase in existing benefits or brand-new claim ...

The claimant is sent an official letter advising them they have one year from that date to finalize their claim with the official form, thus allowing claimants time to gather necessary documents ...

VA sets up an internal computer control, and if the official form is not received within the prescribed year, the case is closed ...

**Department service officers** have noticed that due to many reasons, e.g., change of jobs, health issues, family problems, relocations, etc., claimants may not file within the allowed one year ...

#### Be it resolved ...

That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to adjust its internal computer controls on "Intent to File" claims and generate a reminder letter, 60 days before the one year is up, to the address of record ...

That this letter, in the strongest terms, remind the claimant that their deadline is coming up and if the official claim form is not received, the claimant runs the risk of losing any retroactive payments that might have been available.

**Passed,** American Legion National Convention, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2021

#### **VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

#### 'IN THESE TIMES, WE NEED TO STAY CONNECTED'

I was recently voted adjutant for my post. I've been a member for 15 years but was not well enough, or strong enough, to



actively participate. When that changed, I got involved.

Being new, I thought Buddy Checks were the best way to introduce myself to the membership, make sure they came through the pandemic in good shape and ask if there was anything they needed. Some of the conversations were short and sweet; others lasted over a half-hour. It was awesome to speak with these comrades, shooting the breeze or sharing their struggles.

That's what we who served have always done. Sometimes you just need to "take a knee" and acknowledge the struggles. Bring it in, close ranks and listen. I think that's what some veterans miss: the willingness of a comrade to share the ups and downs. It's what connects us, and in these times, we need to stay connected. An afternoon of phone calls makes that happen for Post 1170 in Illinois.

Submitted by Gregory Corcoran, American Legion Post 1170, Round Lake Park, Ill.

#### A SUPPORTIVE LEGION FAMILY

After the loss of my wife of 21 years, I received numerous Buddy Check calls. Though I proclaimed I was fine, there was an empty spot in my heart. I knew, and the Legionnaires were aware, that at any moment the fires of grief could burn too strong to overcome. I thank all of my Legionnaire family for their love and support.

Submitted by David Ashby, American Legion Post 10, Kissimmee, Fla.

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#### **Voices from Legiontown**

The Legiontown website (**legiontown.org**) has more than 30 categories for content from American Legion Family members, from post histories to community activities and outreach. Among the recent submissions:





"On July 30, American Legion Post 655 of Haltom City, Texas, celebrated the new citizenship of Penphan Souvannachak, the wife of longtime member Donald Souvannachak, who many refer to as "Colonel." The post presented Penphan with a U.S. flag and a certificate of congratulations for her becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States. Her husband became a citizen after he served with Army Special Forces in Vietnam and was held as a prisoner of war. Once released, he remained in the Army and achieved the rank of colonel before retiring and becoming a very active member of Post 655."



**Submitted by Chad Page,** in Veterans Strengthening America

"The Gouldsboro, Pa., American Legion held its first community day this summer. Post 274 partnered with Warrior Strong, which believes in not just healing a veteran's body but also their mind. The day was open to our community, and families were invited to participate in yoga led by a combat-veteran yoga instructor. Our Legion is the center of our town and we try to find ways to strengthen our community."

**Submitted by Amber Viola,** in Veterans Strengthening America



"At 101, (Chambersburg, Pa., Post 46 member and World War II veteran) Sam Worley is still very active in the community as well as very active with The American Legion at the local and state levels. At the end of the (Blankets of Honor) presentation ... Worley hopped on the back of American Legion Riders Head Committee Person Jon Hosfeld's trike and went for his annual ride."

Submitted by Phil Campbell, in Legion Riders

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Whether you're a fitness beginner or a gym rat, injuries are a bummer. Often, though, they are preventable. Here are my tips for avoiding injuries during exercise:

Warm up. Jumping right into an activity is the fastest and most common way to injure yourself. Cold muscles are less elastic and more susceptible to pulling and tearing, which can end a workout. Take five to 15 minutes before exercising to do a dynamic warmup, meaning you keep the body moving by walking and performing active (not static) stretches. Static stretching is meant for post-workout, after muscles are warm.

Pace yourself. Train with the body you have, not the body you want. Aim for improvement, but don't attempt something that is clearly beyond your level. Easing yourself into higher-intensity workouts will be far more beneficial than starting with something too challenging, injuring yourself and then having to take time off to recover.

Mix things up. Doing a variety of exercises can boost your training. Over time, our bodies adapt to repetitive movements, which can lead to injury when we attempt something our muscles aren't prepared for. Taking a balanced approach to fitness leads to overall improved strength.

Use proper technique. Take the time to learn how to properly perform an exercise, especially in weightlifting. If you're new to something, learn good form and seek a fitness professional for help. Improper form can cause serious injuries that can halt your progress, even causing long-term injuries.

**Hydrate.** Dehydration hinders your workout and risks creating a more serious issue. Your body loses lots of fluids and electrolytes through sweating, so be sure to replenish them. Sip from a water bottle before, during and after exercise.

Wear the right shoes. A leading cause of sports injuries is wearing ill-fitted attire for your sport. Research the right type of shoes for your activity. For example, don't wear running shoes for weightlifting or basketball shoes for long-distance running or walking.

Rest. Rest days allow your body to recover and regenerate, allowing muscles to rebuild. A rest day for every three to five workout days is generally advised. Pushing through on days when you're worn down may do more harm than good. You're better off taking an extra rest day to prevent overtraining injuries. A rest day does not necessarily mean no activity. A walk, yoga routine or easy bike ride are good ways to keep the body moving and burning calories.

Listen to your body. It's great to get out of your comfort zone, but if something hurts, stop. Pain might indicate you are doing the workout wrong or that you're not ready for that type of activity yet. Learn to recognize the difference between workout "pain" from a challenge versus pain from a genuine injury.

Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is commander of the California American Legion's 24th District.



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\*Methodology: Phone surveys at regular intervals with VA patients using the InCourage system. Data collection began in 05/01/2019. As of 05/31/2021, 413 patients completed the baseline survey; 214 patients in 1-month cohort; 138 in 6-month cohort, 77 in 12-month cohort.



When fall turns to winter, it's a sign for most of us that the nights are drawing in and the heat needs to be turned up.

For many, it also means a more difficult transition: a period of low mood brought on by colder months, known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

An estimated 5% of Americans experience some degree of seasonal affective disorder. It's generally believed to affect women more than men and is most prevalent in young people between 20 and 30.

However, anyone at any age can experience SAD, which has a range of symptoms. These include difficulty concentrating, low energy levels, sudden mood changes, overeating and reduced libido. This can be difficult for both the person experiencing SAD and their friends and family, resulting in social and relationship problems.

Research suggests SAD may have something to do with the body's internal clock, or circadian rhythm, which is regulated by sunlight. The lack of sun in winter may affect this rhythm in some people, which leads to SAD symptoms.

SAD may also be related to a brain chemical called serotonin, which affects mood. Reduced sunlight can lead to a drop in serotonin levels, which in turn could cause depression.

Whatever the causes, SAD should not be trivialized

#### How to ease seasonal affective disorder

BY MARTIN SAYERS

as a seasonal problem the person must learn to live with. If you experience any SAD symptoms during the winter months, do the following to combat the condition and improve how you feel:

- Eat nutritious food, avoid alcohol and drink plenty of water.
- Exercise outdoors, particularly when the sun is shining. It doesn't have to be intensive; just take a walk or go for a bike ride.
- · Open your blind and curtains during the day to get as much sunlight in as possible.
- · Let others know how you're feeling so they can support you when you need it.

If symptoms persist, schedule a visit with your primary-care physician, particularly if you're having trouble sleeping or your appetite has changed.

Martin Sayers is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, England. He specializes in health and nutrition SAD issues. lamps -

also called light boxes, sun lamps and light therapy lamps - help combat seasonal affective disorder by mimicking natural daylight. Exposure tricks the body - and brain - into thinking they're getting more sunlight than is available, helping with circadian rhythms and serotonin production. Lamps vary by feature and price point.



Wikimedia Commons

The hiccup-curing straw A forced inspiratory suction and swallow tool (FISST) may be the solution to relieving hiccups. Developed by researchers from the University of Texas Health Science Center, the FISST is "a rigid drinking tube with an inlet valve that requires forceful suction to draw water from a cup into the mouth," according to the center's website; the suction and swallow simultaneously stimulate the phrenic and vagus nerves to relieve hiccups. In 2021, 92% of 249 FISST users reported their hiccups stopped. The tube was featured on ABC's "Shark Tank" by the name HiccAway. Illustration courtesy UT Health San Antonio



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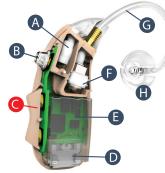


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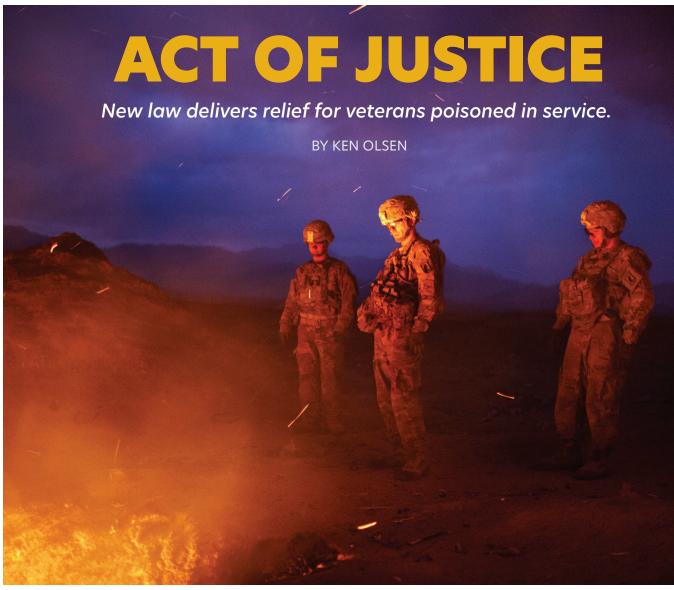






Charging





Sgt. Joshua Hollars and two other soldiers burn trash in a pit just outside the walls of Combat Outpost Jaghatu in Afghanistan on Sept. 12, 2012. Getty

#### The winding road to victory

June 17, 2021 House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., introduces the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2021, later renamed for Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, an Ohio Army National Guard medic who died of cancer caused by burn-pit exposure in Iraq. Sept. 2, 2021 Speaking in Phoenix at the 102nd American Legion National Convention, Takano thanks the Legion for its support of the PACT Act: "Our bipartisan bill will finally provide health care to more than 3.5 million veterans exposed to burn pits and airborne hazards and will concede exposure that is long overdue. It

will establish a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers, and crucially, it will overhaul VA's presumptive decision-making process, so Congress doesn't have to keep intervening."

March 2, 2022 The American Legion speaks at a press fter decades of being spurned by the government that sent them into harm's way, millions of veterans should soon have access to VA health care and disability benefits for illnesses linked to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other toxicants. On Aug. 2, Congress passed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act – the most comprehensive hazardous exposure legislation for veterans in U.S. history – despite an 11th-hour Senate delay over a budget technicality that outraged The American Legion and other advocates. President Biden signed the measure into law Aug. 10 after the Senate finally approved it on an 86-11 vote eight days earlier.

The new law covers generations of former U.S. servicemembers, from those subjected to nuclear-weapons testing beginning in the 1940s to the men and women who lived and worked amid chemical weapons waste, radiation, jet-fuel contamination and additional poisons at a former Soviet air base in Uzbekistan called Karshi-Khanabad (K2) in the early years of the war in Afghanistan.

The largest group covered by the measure are more than 3 million post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The bill adds 23 presumptive conditions for cancers and respiratory illnesses caused by burn pits and two new presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure. It extends Agent Orange benefits to veterans who served in Guam, American Samoa, Johnston Island and other locations outside Vietnam, and provides three groups of Cold War-era servicemembers access to VA health care and benefits as atomic veterans.



President Biden looks on as Danielle Robinson, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, speaks during a signing ceremony for the PACT Act. Getty



Marines burn black water before filling the pit with sand at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, in 2008. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Jason W. Fudge

## The Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act

- Represents the most comprehensive veteran toxicant exposure legislation in history
- Based on precedent established by the Agent Orange Act (1991), which also was championed by The American Legion
- Provides multiple generations of veterans access to VA health care and benefits for exposure to atomic radiation, Agent Orange, burn pits and other environmental poisons
- Creates 23 presumptive conditions for burn-pit related cancers and respiratory illnesses and two new presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure
- First time that federal law acknowledges U.S. troops were deployed to Uzbekistan during the global war on terrorism, which is important for veterans filing VA claims
- Establishes presumptive conditions for Gulf War veterans and eliminates the time limit for filing a VA claim
- Makes veterans who participated in the Eniwetok Atoll, Palomares, Spain, and Thule, Greenland, nuclear cleanups eligible for atomic-veteran-related VA care and benefits
- Provides veterans 10 years of VA health care after they leave the military - an increase of five years
- Allows some individuals to sue over toxicantlaced drinking water at Camp Lejeune, N.C.
- Provides a scientific framework for establishing future presumptive conditions for the next generation of veterans exposed to toxicants

"This act will save lives and offer health care and benefits for those exposed to the poisons of war while serving our country," then-American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said. "It would not have passed without the tireless efforts of our American Legion Family and friends who contacted lawmakers and encouraged them to do right by America's veterans."

As the bill was delayed in late July, more than 34,000 used the Legion's Grassroots Action Center feature to email their senators and successfully urge passage.

"This has been a long time coming," says Ralph Bozella, a Vietnam War Army veteran and chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. "It looks like Congress and VA have learned lessons about veterans' toxic exposure, and this bill is addressing that."

Rosie Torres, who co-founded Burn Pits 360 with her husband, LeRoy, says she was surprised such a sweeping measure passed Congress. "We never thought it would see the light of day," says Torres, whose husband suffers from toxic encephalopathy, constrictive bronchitis and gastrointestinal issues from burn-pit exposure during his 2007-2008 tour as an Army reservist in Iraq. "My greatest hope for the legislation is that we learn from it and that we never turn our back on our nation's heroes again."

The PACT Act faced intense opposition from some Senate Republicans, who objected to the estimated \$280 billion cost over 10 years.

"I've lost my husband, and my children lost their dad - I can't put a price tag on that," says Tammy McCracken, whose husband, David, died of brain cancer less than three years after he returned from Iraq. She spent thousands fighting VA to allow two



Tammy McCracken's husband, David, died of a brain tumor, believed to be caused by his exposure to burn pits in Irag. VA was reluctant to make any such connection, an issue the PACT Act aims to resolve. Photo by Kevin D. Liles

conference in front of the U.S. Capitol calling for swift passage of the PACT Act. "The American Legion will not stand idly by and allow the delay of health care for our nation's veterans to happen again," American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Director Katie Purswell tells reporters. "We cannot wait decades for this generation of war fighters."

March 3. 2022 The House votes 256-174 in favor of H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act. The measure is received the same day in the Senate.

March 8, 2022 American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard tells a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs that the PACT Act is a top legislative

priority for the organization. "Whether a veteran was exposed to (toxicants) in the jungles of Vietnam or a combat outpost in Iraq, we in The American Legion stand as peers who have been down this road before and know the government can do better to accept responsibility and help these veterans as they confront illnesses caused by preventable exposures," he tells lawmakers.



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Brian Moyer, founder of Agent Orange Survivors of Guam, remains concerned that VA might rescind new presumptive service connections and benefits in an effort to cut costs.

Photo by Jacob M. Langston

of her children to use her late husband's GI Bill benefits. She lost the battle to have David buried at Arlington National Cemetery in part because VA didn't consider his death to be service-connected.

"This is the cost of war," Bozella says. "If the United States of America makes a decision to go to war, we have to realize we have to pay to care for these veterans - and, in certain circumstances, for their dependents." The new presumptive conditions may also cut down on costly VA claims appeals that often take years to resolve.

Mark Jackson, acting executive director of the Stronghold Freedom Foundation - which advocates on behalf of K2 veterans - is baffled by criticisms of the cost. "The defense budget has grown to about three-quarters of a trillion dollars, and you are telling me that a rounding error on that is a bridge too far?" Jackson says. "You risk the very idea of an all-volunteer force."

The PACT Act represents the first time federal

law acknowledges U.S. troops were deployed to Uzbekistan during the global war on terrorism, an omission that has allowed VA to deny claims from K2 veterans for two decades. Now people like Air Force veteran Doug Wilson, who has scraped by on Social Security disability and others' kindness, may qualify for VA benefits that could allow him to make his home more wheelchair-accessible.

Wilson, one of nearly 15,000 K2 veterans, has had two brain-tumor surgeries and now relies on a wheelchair and a walker. Unable to work since 2016, he filed a VA claim in 2018 and was rejected. He's been awaiting a decision on his appeal for three years. "Based on where I am on the wait list" - 55,174th in line, as the Senate deliberated over the PACT Act in mid-June - "it's going to be another three years, if not longer," he says.

The legislation also means veterans who participated in the Eniwetok Atoll, Palomares, Spain, and Thule, Greenland, nuclear cleanup

March 29, 2022 The American Legion Legislative Division submits congressional testimony to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs expressing support for the PACT Act.

April 13, 2022 National Commander Dillard launches a nationwide media tour calling for Senate passage of the PACT Act as Senate Republicans and

Democrats continue negotiations on the size and scope of the bill.

May 3, 2022 The national commander has a press conference at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis urgently calling for passage of the PACT Act, referencing veterans who have recently died from illnesses related to burn-pit exposure.

"This legislation can be a legacy and a remembrance to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice due to the poisons of war."

May 18, 2022 Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Ranking Member Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., announce a bipartisan gareement on the final text of the PACT Act.

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operations will finally be recognized as atomic veterans eligible for related VA care and benefits, says Keith Kiefer, national commander of the National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans. "This is a significant step forward in recognizing and caring for these men who sacrificed for their country," he adds.

The PACT Act also builds on American Legion efforts dating to the 1970s, when Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange reported skin lesions called chloracne and other health problems, as well as birth defects among their children.

The Legion sponsored Columbia University's landmark 1982 study of the health effects of Agent Orange that became the basis for VA's first presumptive conditions for Vietnam veterans.

The Legion also pushed Congress to pass the Agent Orange Act of 1991, which provided that any veteran who served in Vietnam from Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and automatically qualifies for disability rating and care for specified diseases or presumptive conditions. That list has grown since the original legislation passed, and the PACT Act adds monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance and hypertension. VA coverage for hypertension will be phased in over four years.

Beyond that, the law concedes U.S. troops were exposed to many environmental hazards with devastating effects. "The acknowledgement that burn pits and other exposures caused the illness and death of so many veterans is huge," Torres says. "This will be closure for a lot of people."

Veterans and their advocates hope Congress will build on the PACT Act. "It goes a long way in caring for all veterans of toxic exposure," Jackson says.

#### SUPPORT THE LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code, which links to a sign-up page for American



Legion Action Alerts. From there, users can contact elected officials in Washington and urge them to support legislation that helps veterans, military personnel, youth and communities.

"However, it still doesn't go far enough. The list of presumptives covers catastrophic illness but not many chronic illnesses. Using my case as an example, thyroid and endocrine disorders, osteoporosis/osteopenia and most gastrointestinal disorders aren't covered. The bill allows veterans to get screened but still doesn't guarantee care and coverage beyond the presumptives."

Nor does the PACT Act cover cardiovascular health risks among burn-pit veterans despite a consensus that such smoke causes heart disease, says Remington Nevin, an Army veteran and occupational medicine specialist who helps veterans establish evidence connecting exposure to illnesses when pursuing VA claims.

And veterans like Vic Skaar, who led an Air Force team tasked with decontaminating homes, livestock and farm fields after four nuclear bombs were accidentally dropped near Palomares, Spain, in 1966 now worry their VA claims will be lost among millions of new applications for benefits. He believes Palomares atomic veterans may be better off with stand-alone legislation and sticking

June 16, 2022 The Senate passes the Honoring Our PACT Act by a vote of 84-14.

July 27, 2022 Minor technical issues with the bill require its return to the Senate, and a procedural "cloture" vote falls short of the necessary yea votes to pass it; 25 former supporters reverse positions due to a procedural disagreement with

the consideration of the bill. delaying passage until a full Senate vote can be conducted.

July 28, 2022 American Legion Legislative Division Director Lawrence Montreuil joins affected veterans, families, members of Congress, other veterans groups and former "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart at a Capitol Hill press conference

to express outrage over the continued delay. Montreuil calls the delay "absolutely unacceptable. A bill that passed the House of Representatives three times and passed the Senate with wide-ranging bipartisan support - 84 senators voting in favor of it - will now be delayed, and once again veterans will suffer."

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with a class-action lawsuit. "I am deeply concerned that our small group of Palomares survivors, and growing number of widows thereof, may never receive deserved ... and equal consideration," said Skaar, a member of Hanson-Lien American Legion Post 368 in Taylor-Hixton, Wis.

Focus now turns to PACT Act implementation in the months and years ahead, without diluting any of the benefits now written into law. Brian Moyer, founder of Agent Orange Survivors of Guam and a member of American Legion Post 35 in Mount Dora, Fla., points to VA's 2002 decision to stop granting some Vietnam Navy veterans presumptive service connection for Agent Orangerelated illnesses as an example of relief rescinded through administrative processes.

"I wouldn't be surprised if VA tries to pull some nonsense like they did with the Blue Water Navy veterans and strip us of our benefits for budgetcutting purposes further down the road," says Moyer, a Marine Corps veteran who served on Guam from 1974 to 1976 and now confronts peripheral neuropathy, hypertension, spinal stenosis, precancerous growths on his face and arms, and other exposure-presumed health issues.

The Blue Water Navy presumptions were finally restored through legislation in 2019 after persistent American Legion efforts to get them reinstated.

In addition to implementation oversight on behalf of affected veterans, The American Legion will also work to ensure that VA receives the funds to fulfill the PACT Act's promises, Bozella says.

"There are always concerns when it comes to presumptive conditions and when it comes to getting compensation and health care," he says. "American Legion staff and volunteers stand ready to help through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission in any way we can."

Millions of veterans are expected to have access to VA health care and benefits as a result of the PACT Act, including:

- An estimated **3.5 million** post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to burn pits
- Approximately **52,000** veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving on Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Island
- An estimated **15,000** U.S. servicemembers who were deployed to a former Soviet airbase in Uzbekistan called Karshi-Khanabad (K2)
- · Approximately 1,600 Palomares, Spain, nuclear cleanup veterans
- Approximately 4,000+ Eniwetok Atoll nuclear cleanup veterans
- Approximately **500** Thule, Greenland, nuclear cleanup veterans

Sources: Stronghold Freedom Foundation, National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans, Agent Orange Survivors of Guam

The Legion will also encourage VA to provide health care to as many veterans as possible as the process plays out. "I encourage all veterans exposed to toxic substances while serving in the military to contact American Legion service officers for free assistance," Dillard said. "The claims process can be complicated, and American Legion service officers are happy to help."

Meanwhile, the Legion has a big role in awareness building, Bozella says. "Our posts need to be organized and galvanized to share this information and help people file claims when they are ready to do so. This is who we are as Legionnaires." 🦃

*Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to* The American Legion Magazine.

**July 29-Aug. 1, 2022** American Legion Legislative Division staff members meet with 18 of 25 Senate Republicans who switched their votes, urging them to vote yes and end the delay. The national commander releases a statement demanding that the Senate not

leave for August recess before voting again. And, in the most successful digital advocacy campaign in the organization's history, more than 34,000 Legionnaires send messages through the Legion's Grassroots Action Center to senators, urging passage.

Aug. 2, 2022 The Senate passes the PACT Act by a vote of 86-11.

Aug. 10, 2022 Surrounded by veterans and advocates, including The American Legion's national commander, President Biden signs the PACT Act into law at the White House.



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## **SAVING GEORGE**

In their support for a struggling Vietnam War veteran, an extended family demonstrates how to 'Be the One.'

BY HENRY HOWARD

eorge Kanaly was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder after his first marriage dissolved. He harbored the dark feelings faced by many of his fellow Vietnam War veterans.

After suffering steep losses in combat, he returned home only to be spit on by protesters. "Everybody disrespected us," says Kanaly, an Army veteran who served in country from 1967 to 1968. "They thought we were all nuts because we were diagnosed with PTSD."

Kanaly, a 50-year member of The American Legion affiliated with Post 192 in Marengo, Ill., finally took advice from his sister and others to get help about seven years ago. "I had a total meltdown. I had been diagnosed with PTSD for a long time. One of the things that helped me cope with my PTSD was finally getting counseling."

Agreeing to see a VA therapist proved to be the catalyst he needed. From there, he was directed to Operation Wild Horse, a nearby nonprofit that

### BETHEONE Suicide Prevention: Part Two

pairs wild mustangs and burros with veterans and active-duty personnel with PTSD. "It's like a family," he says.

His extended family, a network of caring individuals, has helped Kanaly through his low points. Their efforts are representative of The American Legion's Be the One campaign. The initiative's goal: eliminate the stigma associated with mental health, empower everyone to take appropriate action to help veterans in crisis and, ultimately, reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

One does not have to be a veteran to "Be the One." Spouses, non-veteran caregivers, civilians and family members each have the power to "Be the One" when it comes to saving a life.

Taking the lead Patti Gruber, program director for Operation Wild Horse, is an example for civilians. Through the organization, based in Bull Valley, Ill., veterans like Kanaly bond with the animals, which helps soothe their negative feelings and often lifts them from despair.

The organization was among dozens that participated in the second annual Vets 4 Veterans and Blue Families, hosted in June by American Legion Post 171 in Crystal Lake, Ill.

Post 171 Senior Vice Commander Robert Dorn said the event is designed to connect at-risk veterans with local services, shining a light on solutions to PTSD and veteran suicide.

"The whole idea is to bring together resources that veterans and first responders are not aware of," he says. "We figured, 'Why can't we be the navigator for that veteran?"

Though more than 100 people attended the event, Dorn doesn't measure success by attendance. Instead, it's a goal tied to the effort to "Be the One."

"It's hard to not get caught up in the numbers," he says. "How many vets showed up? Sometimes it's not what you anticipate. I learned a long time ago, it's the one. Be the One is really the key to it. If you help that one, then you help his or her whole family. That's how we measure success."

Throughout the daylong event, Gruber visited with veterans, their families and others, introducing them to Operation Wild Horse.

"'Why mustangs?' is always the No. 1 question we get," she says. "When you're in the military, everything is fight or flight. You have to decide

in a situation what you need to do. Do you stand there and hold your ground, or do you need to leave? And that's the exact same way the mustangs survive. On a very organic level, they understand each other."

Like veterans, the burros and mustangs need transition. Once wild animals, they go through a gentling process so they understand how to interact with people. "There's a direct correlation about both veterans and the animals learning to come back and join civilization at the same time," she explains.

Gruber was inspired by lessons from her grandfathers, who both served in World War II. One, an American Legion member, served on USS Mauna Loa. "He was my happy grandfather, and I remember watching him march in all the parades. He wore his USS Mauna Loa hat to the day he died. We buried him with it."

Her paternal grandfather was a Marine who was captured on Wake Island and spent four

#### **COVID's impact** on mental health

The American Legion conducted an online survey of veterans in 2021 to determine how the ongoing pandemic affected their mental health. More than 4,500 veterans took the survey. The percentages reflect the reporting in that particular category:

#### Women struggling more

- Mental health condition: women veterans (**53.6%**), male veterans (**22.6%**)
- Moderate-severe depression: women veterans (42.5%), male veterans (19.9%)
- Trouble sleeping: Women veterans (49.5%), male veterans (28.3%)

#### **Younger veterans**

• Moderate-severe depression: post-9/11 veterans (35.2%), other eras (20.9%)

#### **Bv** race

- Severe depression: Latino veterans (21.1%), Black veterans (17.5%), white veterans
- · Sleeping difficulties: Black veterans (23.2%), Latino veterans (21.3%), white veterans (11.1%)

## BETHEONE Suicide Prevention: Part Two



Legionnaires, veterans, families and supporting organizations participate in a Vets 4 Veterans event at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crystal Lake, Ill., on June 11. Photo by Eric Madden

years as a prisoner of war in Japan. He displayed anger, self-medicated and showed signs of PTSD.

"Growing up with these two different grandfathers who had very different experiences in the military, I wanted to do something to give back," Gruber says. "It was really important to me to honor both of my grandfathers and my love of mustangs, and put them together. That's how Operation Wild Horse came to be."

Gruber's team embodies the Legion's vision for the Be the One campaign.

"We measure success by people who have come to us and told us they are only still walking around because we're there for them," she says. "We have such a strong family unit that if somebody doesn't show up, we're reaching out to them and finding out what's going on."

Sometimes a veteran's spouse or friend will notice a veteran is having a bad day and prompt them to visit Operation Wild Horse.

"About half an hour, 45 minutes, after they've been spending time with their horse, we see them just take it down a little bit," Gruber says. "We see the laughter and the brightness in their eyes come back. We know that when they're leaving, they're in a better place."

**Power of Socks** Kanaly's challenges date back to losing almost his entire unit before leaving Vietnam. "To say he struggled with anger is an understatement," Gruber says.

He regularly visits Operation Wild Horse, sometimes after a VA therapy session. Just a few months after starting the program, changes were noticeable.

"When George first came to the program, he was more standoffish," Gruber says. "He was not able to trust and be part of something. Over the years, he's not only connected

#### You too can 'Be the One'

American Legion posts and members are raising awareness about PTSD and veteran suicide by providing resources, hope and camaraderie for those at risk.

#### **BIGFOOT SCAVENGER HUNT**

Who: American Legion Post 4, Billings, Mont.

**What:** After a friend's death by suicide, Legionnaire Jim Clark created Post 4's Bigfoot Scavenger Hunt for Halloween. Each of the 12 stops provided community resources for veterans who may not know where to go for help.

Impact: The inaugural event educated about 30 participants. "They all came up to me, gave me hugs and said, 'Jim, we had a blast. We learned a ton about what veteran resources are available in our community. We're going to tell everybody we know about it."

#### **RANCH CLEANUP**

Who: American Legion Family of South Dakota

What: More than 70 Legion Family members led a group that

contributed 400 hours to clean up the DTOM 22/0 Veterans Ranch in Warner, S.D., which provides healing and recovery for servicemembers, veterans and families mainly through free equine therapy. The ranch hosts those facing PTSD, depression, effects of military sexual trauma and other conditions.

**Impact:** Beyond improvements at the ranch, Legion Family members spent 80 hours in July storing a veteran's property that had been damaged by a derecho.

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### BETHEONE Suicide Prevention: Part Two

with other veterans who understand his time in service. but they have helped him let down his walls. He has this great barrelling laugh now. The laughter is the biggest change between when he came to us and who he is now."

Even after years of counseling and mustang therapy, Kanaly spiraled in late 2020. Marine Corps veteran Jimmy Welch, Operation Wild Horse president and co-founder, showed how to "Be the One."

"I was thinking about getting a gun and mentioned something in a passing comment," Kanaly says. "Patti's friend, Jimmy, was on the phone in 20 minutes. We talked for a long time, and he helped me get back over the edge."

He's a believer in the therapy. "The mustangs are ... so in tune with how you are. There have been times when I came in with a real bad attitude, and the horses mellow me out."

Gruber tries to pair visitors with the same horse each time. Kanaly worked well with a mare named Socks. "We just connected. I haven't been able to ride her for six months because of her injury. But I like to go there and just brush her. I'm hoping she can get to the point where we can walk around again. She can be so gentle."

Thanks to Post 171's efforts, Gruber is optimistic that more veterans will experience similar turnarounds. Since the Vets 4 Veterans event, others have reached out to her.

"Any time a veteran has an opportunity to talk with other veterans, it opens a door," she says. "I'm grateful for the Legion and other organizations that are helping save one veteran at a time."

So is Kanaly, who has remarried. "I'm a lot more mellow now," he says. "My wife has mentioned it so many times. It's the peace and tranquility of going there. It's given me new ways to address negative stuff." 🦃

Henry Howard is deputy director of media and communications for The American Legion.

#### Podcast focuses on Be the One

September's American Legion Tango Alpha Lima episodes highlight successes in efforts to reduce the veteran suicide rate. Among them:

- · A Legionnaire's decades-long quest to research and treat PTSD.
- A North Carolina post's efforts to raise awareness are paying off.
- The Concussion Legacy Foundation is making progress.
- An Army veteran emerges from trauma to embrace fitness.

legion.org/tangoalphalima

#### You too can 'Be the One'



#### **OPERATION IRON RUCK**

Who: American Legion Department of Alabama What: The department supports student veterans who ruck 151 miles for Operation Iron Ruck, leading up to the annual Alabama-Auburn football game in November. Each participant carries rucks weighing between 17 and 22 pounds, representing the estimated number of veterans who die by suicide daily. Impact: In 2021, an American **Legion Operation Comfort** Warriors grant paid for the items in the rucks. After the march, those items - toiletries, socks and other comfort items - were distributed to homeless veterans.

Share your 'Be The One' story Spread the word of how posts and members are raising awareness about, and helping reduce, the veteran suicide rate. Share your success stories at legiontown.org.

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# Origin of 'Be the One'

Dave Berkenfield had heard enough. He closed the binder full of PowerPoint slides, marketing slogans and colorful graphics.

"All you need to do is save one life, and that's it," the retired Navy SEAL said, zeroing in on a single word to brand and describe The American Legion's campaign to reduce the veteran suicide rate.

One.

Berkenfield understands why Be the One is important. He's lost a brother and fellow SEAL to suicide. Anyone can "Be the One," he says. Veterans, spouses, friends, civilians and caregivers all have the opportunity to save the life of one veteran.

"Be the one person to recognize that maybe you need some help, or be the one person to recognize that a family member needs some help, or be the one friend who actually makes a phone call and asks someone how they're doing," says Berkenfield, an American Legion member and adviser on a "Be the One" panel. "You just have to be a true connection with someone who needs it. That's what Be the One is about."

At its core, the campaign aims to increase awareness of the veteran suicide epidemic, destigmatize mental health counseling and develop solutions.

Be the One also encourages veterans to ask for help when they need it.

Berkenfield's advice to family members, caregivers and friends is to not wait until the veteran says things like, "I'm selling everything in my house," "I'm drinking myself under the table" or "All my relationships are failing." Instead, pursue a connection early on to build trust. "Once you start

getting in front of that, veterans know they have a support system."

There's no one-size-fits-all guideline for creating one's own support system, though. Berkenfield found his working for Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR), running its Extreme E program. He travels worldwide with the all-electric, off-road program, which promotes awareness of electrification as well as women in motorsports. While he's still part of a team, he says the stakes were higher when he was serving in uniform.

"There are levels of accountability in the special operations community and in the whole military that are higher than most other organizations," he says. "Life-or-death moments are there. If I'm a parachute rigger in charge of packing my team's parachutes, their lives are in my hands. There's a million versions of that throughout the military. But for someone, say a hedge fund manager, It's not life or death."

Both the racing team and SEALs, though, require every member to prioritize the group over the individual. Berkenfield is on a mission to further solidify that teamwork at CGR. He's developing a wellness program to help forge bonds among teammates while easing their stress and improving their performance.

The American Legion is also a way for veterans to find the camaraderie they often miss after separating from the service.

"Being part of The American Legion is an instantaneous fix," he says. "An important part of the Be the One conversation is having an organization you have a natural fit with. The younger generation of veterans understands that and relishes it."

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### Jim Troiola's work ethic, dedication to children guide him to highest office in The American Legion.

im Troiola's usually the one with a joke, but on the day he was installed as a vice commander at William E. DeBevoise Jr. Post 1682 in New City, N.Y., someone else had him laughing.

Troiola, who's 6 feet 5, walked forward, flanked by two other officers who also topped 6 feet.

Dennis Keleman, who was serving as Rockland County commander, looked at the group and quipped, "Before we install you, I want you to know that The American Legion does not sponsor a basketball team."

That was 30 years ago, and both men chuckle at the memory of their first meeting. Keleman became Troiola's mentor, working with him and other Legionnaires to revive a local Four Chaplains Day program, POW/MIA ceremony and other activities. His instincts and hard work were noticed, and soon Troiola was taking on bigger jobs: post and county commander, state membership chairman, district and eventually department commander.

Yet he's the same attentive guy he's always been, staying hours after a meeting to talk an issue over with a member or helping clean tables, Keleman says. "You never stand as tall as when you stoop to help somebody, and Jim's pretty damn tall."

On Sept. 1, at their 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee, Legionnaires elected Troiola to the organization's highest office, where he'll advocate on behalf of veterans, servicemembers and their families.

"He's been doing it for years, and he'll continue to," Keleman adds. "I'm proud to know him as national commander, but I'm more proud to call him my friend."



Troiola served in the Navy from 1969 to 1971, doing two Mediterranean cruises aboard USS Nitro. A boatswain's mate, he operated winches during munitions transfers, sometimes at 3 a.m. "It was a ship where you worked your butt off."

He isn't one for regrets, but would stay in the service if he had it to do over. "Once I got out, I really missed it."

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In 2016, the Troiolas moved to Windham, Maine, to be near their grandchildren. They help care for Alex, 11, who is disabled, and do their best to keep up

> whole life," he says, beaming. "We go all over the place with them - the beach, the trampoline park, walks, bicycle rides. It's great."

For a year, he kept working in New York and flew home on weekends. That was enough, and after 35 years in the automotive service industry, he retired.

"I love the state," he adds. "It's a slower pace of life, which I desperately needed."

Those close to Troiola saw a red cap in his future, but he's still amused, considering his 30-year journey to the top started with an invite not to join the Legion, but Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682. He was a member for six months before the post commander asked if he was a veteran.

"He said, 'Join the Legion, we do a lot of good things around here," Troiola recalls. "I said, 'What do you do?' He hands me an application. 'We run the Memorial Day parade in town, we do Boys State and other programs.' I didn't know what any of that was, but I joined."

A few months later, Troiola was approached again, this time with a job offer: "'Nothing big,' they said. 'Second vice commander.' I said, 'What does he do?' 'Buildings and grounds. Just make sure the lightbulbs are changed, stuff like that.' Two weeks later, I'm cutting grass with a push mower in 94 degrees."

In those early years, he did some of everything, including editing the post newsletter and his personal favorite - chairing the county Oratorical program ("I was awestruck, how those kids could memorize all that information and talk about the Constitution the way they did").

In short, Troiola's a doer, a trait inherited from his father. Raymond Troiola emigrated from Italy, served in the Army during World War II and worked 12-hour days as a waiter in the Drake Room in New York City to provide for his family.

In the mid-'50s, they moved from St. Albans, Queens, to Douglaston, into a house the older Troiola had constructed himself. It was the first of nearly 300 he'd build in the area.

"We learned a lesson from that," Troiola says. "How to handle money, how to discipline yourself ... part of where I am today is because of him, no doubt about it."

His father hoped he'd go into the business, but Troiola had other interests. At 18, he walked into a Chevrolet dealership and asked for a job. He washed and polished cars, then worked as a parts delivery driver until his brother persuaded Troiola to join him in the Navy.

Troiola spent two years on active duty, much of it on an ammunition ship at sea. When he got home, he went into the reserve and returned to the dealership, where his owner promoted him to parts manager. "I'll give it a shot," he told him. "I got brazen with him the next day, and said, 'You know, the old parts manager had a new car.' And he gave me the car. There I am at 23 years old, driving a brand new Chevy Caprice!"

Then he met Saveria. In the fall of 1971, Troiola was renting a house in the Hamptons with some buddies ("they weren't like the Hamptons today") and had gone over to a Long Island nightclub. Sitting at the bar, he felt a tap on his shoulder, and a girl asked him to dance.

They exchanged numbers, started seeing each other, and on Valentine's Day, he proposed.



T's been more than 100 years since the last Morgan Silver Dollar was struck for circulation. With a well-earned reputation as the coin that helped build the Wild West, preferred by cowboys, ranchers, outlaws as the "hard currency" they wanted in their saddle bags, the Morgan is one of the most revered, most-collected vintage U.S. Silver Dollars ever.

Struck in 90% silver from 1878 to 1904, then again in 1921, these silver dollars came to be known by the name of their designer, George T. Morgan. They were also nicknamed "cartwheels" because of their large weight and size.

#### Celebrating the 100th Anniversary with Legal Tender Morgans

Honoring the 100th anniversary of the last year the Morgan Silver Dollar was minted, the U.S. Mint struck five different versions in 2021, paying tribute to each of the mints that struck the coin. The coins here honor the historic New Orleans Mint, a U.S. Mint branch from 1838–1861 and again from 1879–1909.

These coins, featuring an "O" privy mark, a small differentiating mark, were struck in Philadelphia since the New Orleans Mint no longer exists. These beautiful coins are different than the originals for two reasons. First,



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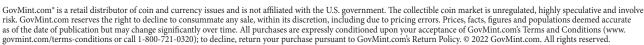
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"We're edging up on 50 years together," Saveria says. "Our oldest was born on Valentine's Day, too, so it's become a special day for us."

Even as Troiola climbed the corporate ladder, overseeing dozens of dealerships and flying across the country, he always prioritized time with their daughters, Laura and Jeanette.

"When Jim came through the door, they'd run to him, which is what my grandchildren do now," Saveria says. "He's a magnet for children. They love him to death."

In 2018, Troiola started a second career as a bus driver for Maine's Falmouth Public Schools. At 6 a.m., he does a high school and middle school run, followed by an elementary run at 7.

"The first person some kids see in the morning is not the teacher," he says. "It's the bus driver. How you greet them can make or break their day. So I goof around. I tell them there's spiders on the roof, scratch the microphone and make crazy noises. They think I'm nuts, but it works."

Count on that same cheerfulness and humor from Troiola as national commander. No negative talk for him about the Legion's future, thanks. He believes veterans crave camaraderie they'll find only in the company of those who served, and that like the Vietnam generation before them, Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans will – and are – finding their way to local American Legion posts and getting involved.

Traveling state to state, Troiola says he's seeing younger leaders and a fresh energy. "I truly believe we're turning a corner in membership."

To keep pushing that direction, Troiola urges posts and their members to focus on Veterans, Education, Teamwork, Sponsor (VETS):

- Uphold the Legion's commitment to care for veterans and their families.
- Know the Legion and its programs. "We can ruin a relationship with a potential member if we don't know what we're all about," he says. "Our best asset is an educated member."
- Work as a team. "In business, nobody worked for me. Everybody worked with me. Nobody gets their job in the Legion done by themselves."
- Sponsor a new member. Show them around, help them become comfortable. Ask how the post can assist them or what it can do better. Such support includes mentoring, making Buddy Check calls and connecting at-risk veterans with resources through the Be the One campaign. "Service is how we'll grow," he says. "The more people know what we do, the more will join the ranks."

Matt Grills is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Learn more about National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola: **legion.org/commander/videos** 





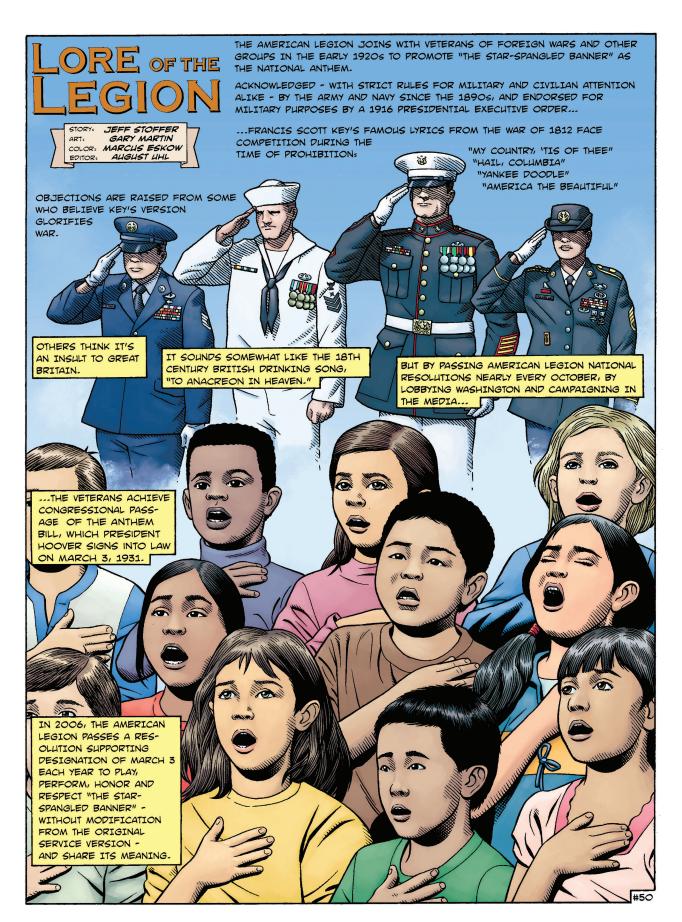


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# Alabama team wins American Legion World Series

For the first time in 55 years, Alabama is home to an American Legion World Series (ALWS) championship team.

Troy Post 70 defeated two-time defending ALWS champion Idaho Falls (Idaho) Post 56 6-5 on Aug. 16 in Shelby, N.C., joining Tuscaloosa's 1967 team as the only ALWS champions from Alabama in American Legion Baseball history.

"I don't really know how I feel," said Troy coach Ross Hixon, whose team was making its first ALWS appearance and finished the season with a 32-6 overall record. "It'll be something I'll always remember and the team will always remember, and I'll rewatch this game when my heart allows it. My heart's still beating hard right now."

The victory was Troy's third straight come-frombehind win in the ALWS. Post 70 trailed League City (Texas) Post 554 3-0 in the sixth inning before rallying to win 4-3 to advance to the semifinals. Troy then overcame a 3-0 deficit after the top of the first to beat Midland (Mich.) Post 165 5-3.

The team's final rally will be remembered most, as Post 70 trailed 5-0 after two innings and was down to its final out in the top of the seventh inning. Trailing 5-3 entering the seventh against Idaho Falls starter Merit Jones, Darryl Lee drew a leadoff walk and Brooks Bryan followed with a

single. After an out, Jones was relieved after reaching his pitch-count limit of 105.

Post 70 greeted the reliever with Shelton Arroryo's RBI single to close within 5-4. With two outs, Troy scored its last two runs. Tanner Taylor drove in Bryan with the tying run and Arroryo later scored the eventual winning run on a wild pitch.

"You've just got to trust that the guys will get on base and eventually break through," Hixon said.

Troy still had to endure Idaho Falls' final at-bat. The Bandits loaded the bases with one out before Troy reliever Press Jefcoat struck out the last two batters, denying Idaho's bid to be the first team to win three straight titles.

"We've been on the opposite side of this twice," said Idaho Falls coach Ryan Alexander, whose team finished 42-11 overall. "We know that to win this tournament, you have to have some breaks go your way. Tonight, we had one inning of it going our way. Give them credit. They did a good job. That's a good program. They put pressure on you at the plate."

- Richard Walker

Watch video highlights of the 2022 American Legion World Series: *legion.org/baseball/videos* 







TOP LEFT: Troy Post 70 first baseman Will Powell bats during Game 15 of The American Legion World Series. TOP RIGHT: Troy Post 70 celebrates after winning Game 15. воттом: Shrewsbury (Mass.) Post 397 second baseman Jimmy Railsback practices during Game 13. Photos by Chet Strange

#### **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL POSTSEASON AWARDS**

#### **American Legion Baseball Big Stick Award**

Travis Bragg, League City (Texas) Post 554, and Eliot Jones, Idaho Falls (Idaho) Post 56, 23 total bases each

#### **American Legion Baseball Slugger Award**

Travis Bragg, League City (Texas) Post 554, .480 batting average

#### Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI Memorial Award

Albert Garza, League City, (Texas) Post 554, Kyeler Thompson, League City (Texas) Post 554, and Nick Valentine, Chesapeake (Va.) Post 280, 12 RBIs each

#### **Bob Feller Pitching Award**

Merit Jones, Idaho Falls (Idaho) Post 56, 23 strikeouts

#### **James Daniels Sportsmanship Award**

Deezil Luce, Idaho Falls (Idaho) Post 56

George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year Award Brooks Bryan, Troy (Ala.) Post 70

# Soaring eagle

As the F-15 airframe celebrates its 50th anniversary, Military.com has put together a list of accomplishments for the Air Force's history-making workhorse:

#### An F-15 landed with one wing.

During a training flight over the Negev, an Israeli F-15D collided with another plane, sheering off one of the F-15's wings. The pilot chose to land rather than eject and didn't even know he'd lost the wing until he exited the plane.

An F-15 shot down a satellite. In 1985, a specially modified F-15A ascended to 35,000 feet and fired an experimental anti-satellite missile at a Solwind P78-1 satellite in low-earth orbit. Maj. Wilbert Pearson and his F-15 "Celestial Eagle" are credited with the only air-to-space kill in history.

An F-15 outpaced a Saturn V rocket. An F-15 "Streak Eagle" pulled 4Gs, accelerated to two times the speed of sound, "reached an altitude of 98,425 feet just 3 minutes, 27.8 seconds from brake release, and beat the Saturn V rocket's time to 50,000 feet by 10 seconds."

#### The F-15 has never been defeated in air-to-air combat.

"Since being first introduced in 1972, American and allied variants of the F-15 have racked up more than 100 aerial victories ... with zero losses."



# Legion Riders co-founder remembered for vision

William "Bill" Kaledas, co-founder of the American Legion Riders program, passed away Aug. 8 at 69.

A past commander of Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., former mayor and council member, Kaledas is best known for starting, with fellow veteran Chuck Dare, the first Legion Riders chapter in 1993.

"I was (Post 396) vice commander, and he was on me about membership," Dare says. "Behind us were about 50 (Harley Owners Group) members having a meeting. I asked why the Legion didn't have anything for bikers. He stated that he would find out."

With guidance from the Michigan department adjutant, Kaledas and Dare wrote bylaws and shared the idea with fellow post members, who voted yes.

"I wanted to be able to go to any post and have a cold one with another Rider," Dare said. "Never really thought it would happen. Well, in 2001 we had our first Romp in Indiana. Standing on a flatbed trailer looking out on all the patches, I knew we were on our way to my dream, and yes, I was overwhelmed."

Billy Johnson, who was the Legion's national membership director when Kaledas and Dare first approached national leadership, loved the idea. "From a membership perspective, we needed something fresh," he says. "What I saw was an opportunity to ... have something different to reach out to the Vietnam veteran."

In 2007, the Riders became an official American Legion program with the passage of Resolution 35.

- Steven B. Brooks



Bill Kaledas, left, and Chuck Dare American Legion

"They saw what it's turned out to be: the most visible segment of The American Legion. We really are a rolling billboard."

**National American Legion Riders Advisory** Committee Chairman Mark Clark, on the evolution of Bill Kaledas' and Chuck Dare's motorcycle group, which has become the Legion's fastest-growing program

125,000+ members

**2,200+** chapters in 55 departments

\$15 million+ Funds raised through the Riders' annual Legacy Run to provide scholarships for children with a military parent killed on duty or who received a 50% or greater disability rating from VA as a result of service after 9/11

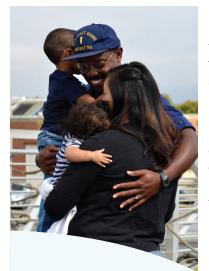


Boys Nation senators attend the Army's Twilight Tattoo at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Virginia on July 27. Photo by Hilary Ott

"Knowing that we're here to think about the future of the country, you can feel the legacy ... You can feel the history being made every day. It's awesome."

Owen Bland, American Legion Boys Nation senator from Connecticut, on participating in the 76th session of the Legion's premier youth government program July 22-29. Held at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., the week included visits to representatives on Capitol Hill and monuments on the National Mall, a wreathlaying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a dinner at Post 136 in Greenbelt, Md.

See highlights from this year's Boys Nation session: legion.org/boysnation



Did you know?

The COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), offers up to \$9,000 to cover the cost of a funeral for someone who passed away due to COVID-19 as far back as January 2020.

Weekly news stories on **legion.org** provide information on everything from living wills to estate planning to claiming forgotten assets. Each story includes a link to The American Legion's planned giving process and how members can establish a legacy of support for the organization while providing for current financial needs. Go online to learn how to make an impact on future generations through the Legion's charitable programs, including the Child Welfare Foundation, American Legion

Charities, the American Legion
Legacy Scholarship Fund,
Operation Comfort
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Emergency Fund
er and more.

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### Obsolete tools of war?

After more than six months of high-intensity, high-end warfare between the armed forces of Russia and Ukraine, Popular Mechanics concludes that these four tools of war have been exposed as obsolete - or close to obsolete.

Fighting trenches Although both Russian and Ukrainian forces dua trench systems as the war stalemated in the early summer, armed drones have allowed both sides to drop



grenades into the trenches with a high degree of accuracy and at low cost.



Towed howitzers "Counterbattery fire has always been a problem for artillerists, but the use of radar (like the American AN/TPY-36 supplied to Ukraine), modern

communications and precision-guided munitions often means that enemy shells could be whizzing toward a towed artillery firing position in seconds, catching the guns and gunners before they can redeploy."

Self-propelled howitzers, on the other hand, can fire a volley and then rapidly move to another position, thus lessening the likelihood of being hit by counter-artillery fire.

#### Manned frontline aircraft

"The war in Ukraine has laid bare a dangerous truth, that in modern war against a wellequipped adversary, aircraft can no longer operate close to



Wikimedia Commons

the front line. Russian air defenses are the standard against which to measure modern enemy surface-to-air threats, and they have taken a serious toll on Ukraine's manned and unmanned aircraft."



Wikimedia Commons

Tanks "Russia is visually confirmed to have lost at least 936 tanks in Ukraine, the equivalent of three tank divisions. Although a combination of factors is

responsible for these heavy losses, one major factor is the use of Western anti-armor weapons such as the Swedish NLAW and American Javelin. Tanks are also proving vulnerable to drones capable of dropping high explosive grenades into the thinly armored, vulnerable areas on Russian tanks."

"The fact that al-Qaida leader al-Zawahri was in downtown Kabul should give us pause. It tells you first of all, that the Taliban obviously negotiated the Doha accord in complete bad faith. They said they wouldn't provide a safe haven for al-Qaida. What's the definition of a safe haven if it's not the leader in your capital city?"

Gen. Frank McKenzie, former commander, U.S. Central Command, in an interview with *Politico* one year after his negotiations with the Taliban and the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan. On Aug. 31, President Biden announced that al-Zawahri had been killed in a CIA drone strike, delivering justice and bringing "one more measure of closure" to families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks. Sources: Politico, PBS.org



### North Korea to Russia's rescue?

With Russian military forces bludgeoned and battered in Ukraine, Russian state TV has reported that North Korea is willing to send 100,000 soldiers to assist Moscow in its efforts to conquer and annex Ukraine. As The New York Post reports, Russia's Channel One claims that Moscow is especially interested in North Korea's expertise in counter-battery/ counter-artillery warfare.

# The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . The Zinger.

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there guite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"

-Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding - when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward,





ZINGER

turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk.

The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

Why take our word for it? Call now, and find out how you can get a **Zinger** of your very own.



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#### THE JOB FRONT BY WENDY S. ENELOW

### What to know about applicant tracking systems

Initial candidate selection is now an almost entirely technical function, so your résumé must be readable by electronic scanners. Virtually every time you respond to a job posting, upload your résumé or submit it to recruiters and hiring managers, it is scanned by applicant tracking systems (ATS) before a real person ever sees it. So it's essential that your résumé be written and structured so that it will be read and understood by ATS.

Here are some important considerations:

**Keywords are the backbone of ATS.** Searches will look for candidates that have the qualifications (keywords) they are seeking. A warehouse manager might include keywords such as "inventory," "supply chain," "logistics" and others in a résumé, assuming they performed those functions. Those will be some of the exact same keywords companies will use to identify candidates to move forward in the hiring process.

Most statistics report that between 2% and 5% of résumés are selected after ATS scanning, so you must integrate the right keywords - words that represent what you've done in your career as they relate to your current objective.

#### Résumé files and formats must be ATS-readable.

Prepare your résumé in Word and PDF so you can upload either as requested. It is no longer necessary to use a plain-text version. Also, use a chronological-combination format (summary followed by work history), not a functional format. ATS cannot match your experience to specific employment and so it's discounted.

It's fine to use bold, italics and other enhancements that do not "touch" any of the text. If you use graphics, borders, logos, charts or other images, they will not be read. However, they will not affect the readability or scoring of the rest of the résumé. If you work in a creative field and your résumé is filled with design elements, you will be best served by a second, less-designed version for ATS.

Finally, don't use text boxes, because ATS will not read any of the text inside.

Don't be intimidated by ATS technology. If you follow these rules, creating a compatible résumé will be easy and fast.

Wendy Enelow is author of "Expert Résumé & LinkedIn Profiles for Managers & Executives" and other titles. wendy@wendyenelow.com

## Hoops on the water

Perennial college basketball powers Gonzaga and Michigan State will play each other next month on the deck of USS Abraham Lincoln in San Diego's harbor, Sports Illustrated reports.

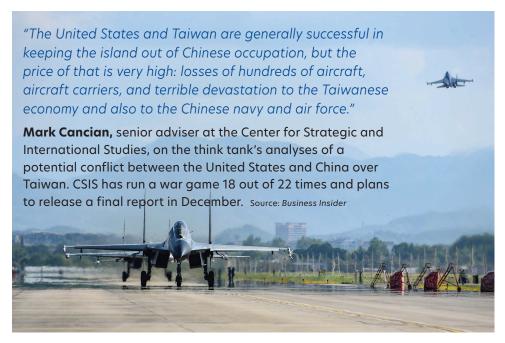
Dubbed the 2022 Armed Forces Classic, the game will be played on Veterans Day and televised on ESPN.

It's not the first time college basketball has been played "on the water." In fact, the MSU-Gonzaga game marks the sixth time college basketball teams have competed on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Michigan State played in the inaugural Carrier Classic, held on USS Carl Vinson against North Carolina on Nov. 11, 2011. MSU also played in the first Armed Forces Classic in 2012, held at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany in a C-5 transport hangar.

"The experience we had in 2011 when we played North Carolina on the deck of USS Carl Vinson was one of the most humbling experiences of my career," MSU coach Tom Izzo said. "This opportunity to play on an aircraft carrier in front of men and women who serve in the military and are willing to put their lives on the line is an experience that is going to mean something to the young men who will play in the game for a long, long time."



The University of North Carolina and Michigan State University men's basketball teams face off in the inaugural Carrier Classic aboard USS Carl Vinson, docked at North Island Naval Station in San Diego, Nov. 11, 2011. White House photo



The air force and naval aviation corps of the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army fly warplanes during joint combat exercises and training around Taiwan on Aug. 4.

MY GI BILL VETERANS & EDUCATION BY VALERIE HEFFNER

# Retroactive education benefits for dependents

Q: I'm a retired 28-year Navy veteran. Five years ago I applied for VA disability due to injuries in the military. Today, I received a letter stating that VA has awarded me total and permanent service-connected disability. Since my effective date was backdated five years ago, is my daughter eligible to receive VA educational benefits from when she began her schooling three years ago?

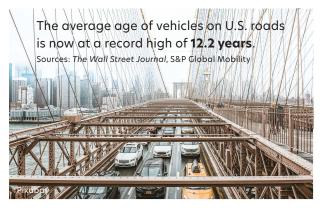
A: If your daughter is between 18 and 26 and you are totally and permanently disabled, she may be entitled to receive Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents benefits. She must complete the application for Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits Form (VA Form 22-5490) or go online to va.gov. When filling out the application, make sure your daughter elects her start day from three years ago. Once she receives a certificate of eligibility, have her provide the information to the college so it may certify the information to VA. The current monthly housing allowance (MHA) payment for Chapter 35 is \$1,401 for a full-time student and may be less for previous years. With the MHA the student is required to pay tuition, fees and books.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org

## Putin's thought police

Citing police documents, cellphone footage, and interviews with arrestees and antiwar activists in Russia, *The Wall Street Journal* reports that Russians have been rounded up and arrested for holding sheets of paper marked only with eight asterisks – which Vladimir Putin's thugs take to mean the Russian phrase for "no to war." Others have been arrested simply for holding up the book "War and Peace."

Newsweek adds that the Russian dictator is so paranoid about his war in Ukraine, so terrified of dissent and so committed to controlling his subjects that antiwar protesters are even being arrested for holding up blank posters. At least 15,439 Russians have been arrested since Putin launched his war against Ukraine in February.



#### FOCUS ON FINANCES BY J. J. MONTANARO

# Scary financial statistics, revisited

Over the years, I've used October's column as an opportunity to highlight scary financial statistics, hopefully spooking readers into positive action. This year, I'm taking a slightly different approach, digging into my archives to see how numbers I cited in the past have changed.

**43.1%** That was the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participation rate I reported in 2017. Since then, the new Blended Retirement System (BRS) has arrived on the scene. Along with employer automatic and matching contributions, BRS includes a TSP automatic enrollment provision and, as you would expect, participation rates have skyrocketed. In fact, the participation rate in April was 80.5%.

**\$24 billion** This frightening figure is where Javelin's 2022 identity Fraud Survey pegs losses resulting from criminals using consumers' personal information for illicit gain. That's up 60% from 2015, and a not-so-subtle reminder to safeguard your personal information.

**5.4%** In June 2017, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported Americans' personal saving rate – the percentage of their disposable income that people save – at 5.5%. This past May, it was 5.4%. If you hadn't lived through them, you might think the past five years were uneventful. In any case, savings rates in this range are well below USAA's recommended 10% to 15%. On a positive note, the saving rate remained above 10% for most of 2020 and 2021 and peaked at over 30% in spring 2020.

69 months Over the past five years the average term of a new car loan has remained around 69 months. Thankfully, the upward trend in loan length that spurred me to include this statistic in 2017 has abated. At USAA, our view is that 60 months is the sweet spot for new vehicle loans. Limiting your loan to five years can help ensure you aren't "car poor" and don't land in a situation where you owe more than your car is worth. That can be a problem if you need to switch to another vehicle or have an accident.

\$31,000 According to the Education Data Initiative, last year the average student loan debt at graduation had crept up from \$25,000 to \$31,000 over the previous 10 years. That's a move in line with inflation. I picked that statistic primarily because I wanted to highlight that last October the Department of Education announced temporary changes allowing servicemembers to receive forgiveness for payments that were not previously eligible under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. The catch: borrowers must apply and may be required to consolidate Perkins or Federal Family Education loans into Direct Consolidation Loans before submitting their PSLF application. The deadline for applications is Oct. 31, so there is still time to act.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. **legion.org/usaa** 



USS Jacob Jones was the first U.S. destroyer sunk by enemy fire.
Smithsonian Institution photo

"Without doubt this is one of the most satisfying dives I've done in a while. Identifying a wreck of historical significance is always going to be a brilliant experience, but doing it at over 100 meters and so far out at sea magnifies that."

**Darkstar diver Dominic Robinson,** describing in a Facebook post his team's discovery of World War I Navy destroyer *Jacob Jones* 60 miles south of Cornwall, England. Sixty-four of the ship's 110 officers and crew died when the ship was sunk by a German torpedo Dec. 6, 1917; among the survivors was Lt. Cmdr. Norman Scott, who became one of five Navy admirals killed in action during World War II and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Source: CBS News

### **NEW POSTS**

Farris H. Davis Post 416, Moore Haven, Fla. Chartered July 27 Post 722, Freeland, Mich.

Chartered July 13

William J. McGrath Post 2022, Olive Branch, Miss. Chartered July 13

Islander Post 229, Padre
Island, Texas Chartered July 13
Charles Horton Post 739,
Marshalltown, Iowa Chartered
July 12

Post 15, Vassar, Mich. Chartered July 12

SCI Mercer Post 110, Mercer, Pa. Chartered June 1

Duck Creek Post 9, Smyrna, Del. Chartered April 25

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Post 1969, Abilene,

**Kan.** Chartered April 22

**Green-Copeland Post 63, Charles Town, W.Va.** Chartered
April 22

Post 2022, Pinetop-Lakeside, Ariz. Chartered March 14

**Post 236, Rincon, Ga.** Chartered Jan. 11

**Post 415, Babcock Ranch, Fla.** Charted Jan. 5

Roy N. Springer Post 445, Waynetown, Ind. Chartered Jan. 5

**Post 73, Ellerbe, N.C.** Chartered Nov. 9

# 12.5 million

Estimated number of U.S. veterans in 2046, a decrease of about 35% from current numbers

# IF YOU'RE A VETERAN WEARING ADULT DIAPERS TO CONTROL URINARY INCONTINENCE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes.

It's a Godsend.

- John, Men's Liberty user







Did you know that over 18%<sup>1</sup> or almost twice as many men with military service experience urinary incontinence?

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	MEN'S LIBERTY	ADULT DIAPERS	
Keeps you dry 24/7?	YES Can be worn comfortably, cleanly and securely for up to 24 hours	NO Must be changed regularly when they fill up or overflow — often every few hours	
Directs urine away from the skin?	YES Completely external design collects fluid into a discreet pouch — leak-free	NO Traps moisture which stays in contact with skin causing discomfort or infection	
Reduces the risk of infections?	YES More than 5 million Men's Liberty units have been sold, with reduced risk of infections or skin injuries	NO High incidence of diaper rash, sores, yeast infections and dermatitis	
Invisible under clothing?	YES Men's Liberty is unnoticeable — only you know it's there	<b>NO</b> Awkward diapers can be ill-fitting, bulky and uncomfortable	
Little to no out- of-pocket cost?	YES Covered by Medicare, most Medicaid plans, many private insurance plans, workers compensation and VA/Tricare	NO Adult diapers are not covered by Medicare, costing users up to \$300 a month	

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1/Aughan CP, Johnson TM 2nd, Goode PS, Redden DT, Burgio KL, Markland AD. Military exposure and urinary incontinence among American men. J Urol. 2014 Jan; 1911(1):125–9. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.07.016. Epub 2013 Jul 16, PMID: 23871759.

#### How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine, Attn:* Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information online at legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listinas are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. Due to the large number of reunions The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing twice a year.

#### Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a selfaddressed stamped envelope to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing,

send a letter to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.
"Taps" notices are published only for

Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

#### **ARMY**

1-7, 2-7 Cav & Ops Attached Units (Battles of LZ X-Ray & LZ Albany, la Drang, Vietnam, Nov 1965), Fort Benning, GA, 11/17-20, Earnie Savage, (205) 302-8908, earniesavage@gmail.com; **3rd Armd Div,** Washington, 11/3-6, Larry Klauser, (847) 421-9585, larrymgdlite@gmail.com; 8th Armd Div Assn/Battle of the Bulge Assn, Gettysburg, PA, 10/21-23, Anthony Waskie, (215) 423-3930, awaski01@gmail.com; 24th Inf Div Assn, Hinesville, GA, 10/13-16, Jack Johnson, (816) 305-4571, jackjohnson@embarqmail.com; 65th Cbt Engineers, Charleston, SC, 10/10-14, Francis Manning, (413) 896-1199, pmann57@aol. com; Delta Trp 7/1 Air Cav Blackhawks, Fort Knox, KY, 11/11-12, Joe Vernengo, (502) 310-6869, vertigo24@yahoo.com; E Btry (Avn) 82nd Arty 1st Cav Div (Airmobile), Galveston, TX, 11/9-11, Patrick McIntyre, (253) 691-5565, pat@mcintyrec. com; F-2-7 Utter's Bn (Vietnam, 1965-1966), Savannah, GA, 10/16-19, Ivo Alvarez, (352) 250-6583, Ivojoe@aol.com

#### COAST GUARD

All Coast Guard, Coeur d'Alene, ID, 10/7-9, Darlene Amundson, (208) 292-4840, busypartyplanner@gmail.com

#### JOINT

Desert Storm Veterans, Tampa, FL (Cruise), 2/4-9, Anthony Taylor, (740) 646-6164, savacations0814@gmail.com; Khe Sanh Assn, Sparks, NV, 10/23-30, Russell Turner, (636) 282-2263, rkt88@prodigy.net

#### **MARINES**

1st Mar Air Wing (Vietnam Service), Pensacola, FL, 10/13-15, Albert Frater, (201) 906-1197, teanal330@gmail.com; Combined Action Program, Chandler, AZ, 11/8-14, Eric Webb, (630) 310-0013, bulldog\_8762@yahoo.com

#### **NAVY**

Carter Hall LSD 3, Tampa, FL, 10/6-9, Raylah Holm, (509) 607-9021, raylah@aol.com; Catamount LSD 17, Tampa, FL, 10/6-9, Raylah Holm, (509) 607-9021, raylah@aol.com; *Fresno* LST 1182, San Diego, 6/23-25, Hoss Peterson, (615) 477-5636, ussfma1182@gmail.com; Greenwich Bay AVP 41, Norfolk, VA, 10/6-9, Richard Huey, (248) 824-4915, rhuey0277@aol. com: Mansfield DD 728. Riverside, CA, 9/28-10/1. Mike Backlund, (507) 514-1768, mike728@mvcci. net; MCB 40, Tampa, FL, 4/20-23, Bruce Cheek, (563) 349-4129, seabee40@csteldridge.com; Ogden LPD 5, Pensacola, FL, 11/10-13, Mark Stephens, (570) 640-1094, 2143mark@gmail. com; Power DD 839 (1945-1977), Colorado Springs, CO, 5/15-19, John Pinto, (352) 527-2352, jpinto839@gmail.com; San Diego CL 53, AFS 6 & LPD 22, Warwick, RI, 10/20-23, Walter Cox,

(330) 262-7667, wvcox915@aol.com; Tigrone SS 419, Cleveland, 5/18-22, John "Dirt" Murray, (757) 573-1695, jtmurray148@gmail.com; Vogelgesang DD 862, Jacksonville, FL, 5/12-14, Ron Savino, (703) 474-3185, ldobb@aol.com

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 255, CA: Richard Hernandez, Charles Wise Post 14, DE: George Adams, Arthur Alexander, Benjamin Anspach, Don Arvay, James Ash, William Baker, Kenneth Barber, Joseph Barlow, Larry Billings, Joseph Bonello, Vincent Bonifera, Michael Boub, John Bradford, John Brashears, Jaye Brown, Robert Budd, Roderick Burritt, Ernest Carlisle, William Carson, Robert Castro, Fred Chambers, Richard Chase, Michael Chelf, Albert Christine, Donald Cicchini, Robert Clark, Robert Clausen, Walter Clifton, Genevieve Collier, Lawrence Coppock, Clarence Council, Ronald Davis, Charles Denny, Raymond Dephillis, Raymond Deputy, Harry Dixon, William Donavon, Edmund Doucette, Samuel Dukes, William Eckeard, William Englert, Bruce Ennis, Henry Evans, Randall Evans, Joseph Faber, Randolph Faulkner, Joseph Fellows, Robert Fleming, Milton Fontello, Daniel Forsee, Rick Fritschy, Robert Fritzsche, Gerald Funk, David Gardner, David Grimaldi, George Grubb, Robert Haferi, William Hanford, Roy Harman, William Harrington, Ralph Heverin, James Hewes, Scott Holmes, Carl Hudgins, Ronald Huff, Johnny Hufford, Lewis Husfelt, Allen Huttick, Malcolm Innerarity, George Ivory, Robert Jackson, Verdell Jackson, Derfy James, Raymond Janvier, John Kahn, Rudy Kassel, Roland Keithley, William Korn, Kenneth Kujala, James Lee, Lester Link, David Lowman, Alfred Lutts, Nelson Mackie, Larry Marion, John Martin, James McClain, Walter McGinnis, Carl Merritt, Billy Molden, John Moretti, Ronald Morgan, Ken Newberg, Elmer Newlin, Gary Ogden, Walter Parsons, Earl Passmore, Julian Petrek, James Pinder, Paul Pipher, Allan Post, Rhonda Prescott, David Price, Floyd Price, Robert Price, William Raynor, David Reese, Samuel Reinhardt, Gene Riesebeck, Dan Roach, Carlos Roberts, Phillip Rodgers, Robert Rynkowski, Matthew Sammon, James Sbarra, Michael Schroeder,

Sampson Selby, Carlton Seward, Earl Shane, John Sheets, James Shockley, James Shockley II, Ralph Shoemaker, Paul Sipple, Clarence Spencer, David Staats, John Steller, Milton Stroup, Ross Thomas, John Thompson, Ray Thompson, Joseph Thorn, Theodore Trafka, Samuel Trapp, Louis Usilton, John Valention, Nathaniel Vanhorn, James Vaughn, Calvin Vondra, Michael Walker, Benjamin Walters, Robert Watson, Albert Weber, Fredrick Weisenberg, Paul Weisner, William Willis, Marion Wilson, Joseph Wood, Kim York, Joseph Ziegler

Post 232, IN: Chester Colvin Post 41, WV: Clarence R. Paugh

#### IN SEARCH OF

1st Inf Rgt 1st Bn (West Point), 2nd & 3rd Bns (All Eras), John Woyansky, (804) 301-7990, firstusinfrgt@gmail.com

9th Log Cmd, 31st Field Hosp (Korat, Thailand, 1962-1970), Frank Marsh, (757) 617-6292, koratarmymed64@outlook.com

24th Bn 7th Grp 870th Trans Co Plt 1 (Fort Eustis, VA, 1976-1979), LeRoy Barksdale, (434) 534-5002, mountainboy24680@yahoo.com

57th Ftr Wpns Wing, Admin for Test Support & Pro Shops (Nellis AFB, NV, 1982-1985), Douglas Dana, (785) 289-6303, kk08211005@

208th MP Co (Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 1967-1968), Kenn Ziebell, (262) 532-2597, zkenn1@

Keyport Naval Torpedo Stn, WA (1970-1974), Robert Dietz, (215) 266-1235, popps9@ yahoo.com

MOS 383 (Firefighters) Assigned to Eng Firefighting Plts or Eng Avn Firefighting Plts (1943-1945), James Davis, (808.) 242-1192, r11@hawaijantel.net

Naval Hosp Subic Bay, Philippines, Personnel & Corpsmen (1969-1973), R.A. Fischer, rafmmgp@gmail.com

#### **TAPS**

George T. Blume, Dept. of Virginia. Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory

#### EGION SHOPPER





Cmte. Memb. 2004-2005, Nat'l Cmte. on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution 1986-1988, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1997-2001 and 2005-2011, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2000-2001, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2001-2005 and Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 2001-2005.

Warren N. Cuffee, District of Columbia. Dept. Cmdr. 2008-2009, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2007-2013, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2011-2014, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2014-2016, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2014-2015 and Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2015-2016.

R.D. Kinsey, Dept. of Arkansas. Dept. Cmdr. 2018-2019, and Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 2009-2012 and 2015-2022.

Sharon "Sue" E. Lowe, Dept. of Pennsylvania.
Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2017-2018.

Lee E. Murry, Dept. of Wisconsin. Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 5 Chmn 1992-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-1999 and 2004-2005, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 5 Memb. 1987-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997 and 1999-2003, and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 5 Vice Chmn. 1991-1992, 1994-1995, 1997-1998 and 2003-2004.

Robert F. Taylor Jr., Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cncl. Memb. 2017-2022.

**Bradley A. Teis Sr., Dept. of Ohio.** Dept. Cmdr. 2022 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2018-2022.

Gene A. Twiford, Dept. of Nebraska. Dept. Cmdr. 2000-2001 and Nat'l Distinguished Guest Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2001-2005.

Thomas J. Urich, Dept. of California. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2011-2017 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2008-2011.





#### I want to be something really scary for Halloween this year, so I'm dressing up as a phone battery at 2%.

TWO MONSTERS went to a Halloween party. One said to the other, "A lady just rolled her eyes at me. What should I do?"

The other monster replied, "Be a gentleman and roll them back to her."

A PERFECTIONIST walked into a bar. Apparently it wasn't set high enough.

**HOW DO YOU KNOW** your doctor is a vampire? She draws your blood with a straw.

WE JUST GOT A FAX at work. We didn't know we had a fax machine. The entire department just stared at it. I poked it with a stick.

**AN FBI AGENT** interviewed a bank teller after the bank had been robbed three times by the same man. "Did you notice anything special about him?" the agent asked.

"Yes," the teller replied. "He was a little better dressed each time."

MY BRAIN is not equipped with facial or name recognition technology.

WHEN TWO VEGANS get into an argument, is it still called a beef?

**A WOMAN** just back from a weekend fishing trip with her husband was telling her troubles to a neighbor.

"I did everything all wrong," she said. "I talked too loud, I used the wrong bait, I reeled in too soon, and I caught more fish than he did."

**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** I just saw an old man help a teenager who was staring at his phone cross the street.

"FACEBOOK just sounds like a drag. In my day, seeing pictures of people's vacations was considered a punishment." - Betty White



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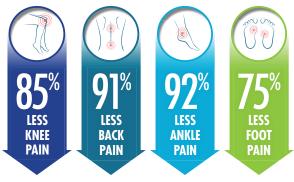
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